

Appl. No. 10/716,392
Amdt. Dated June 1, 2006
Response to Office action of April 7, 2006

Listing of Claims

Please amend the claims as shown below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims and listings of claims in the application:

42. (previously presented) A composite-coated structural wood construction product comprising:

a lumber substrate;

an intermediate composite layer coating a surface of the substrate; and

an outer composite layer coating the intermediate composite layer,

wherein each of the outer and intermediate composite layers includes a polymer and an organic filler,

wherein the organic filler is at least one of saw dust, wood flour, wood fibers, by-products of paper manufacturing, and recycled cellulose,

wherein a combination of all organic fillers is substantially between 20% and 80% by weight of the outer composite layer, and

wherein ~~at least one of the intermediate layer and outer layers~~ is foamed,

wherein the outer composite layer has an exterior surface substantially the same as an exterior surface of a non-structural plastic composite, and

wherein the intermediate and outer layers are extruded.

Claims 43-44. (canceled)

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45. (previously presented) A composite-coated structural wood construction product according to claim 42, wherein the combination of all organic fillers is substantially between 30% and 60% by weight of the outer composite layer.

46. (previously presented) A composite-coated structural wood construction product according to claim 42, wherein the foamed composite layer has substantially between 5% and 80% less weight than an unfoamed composite layer with substantially the same volume as the foamed composite layer.

47. (previously presented) A composite-coated structural wood construction product according to claim 42, wherein the foamed composite layer has substantially between 10% and 50% less weight than an unfoamed composite layer with substantially the same volume as the foamed composite layer.

48. (previously presented) A composite-coated structural wood construction product according to claim 42, wherein the outer composite layer further includes a biocide.

49. (previously presented) A composite-coated structural wood construction product according to claim 42, wherein the substrate includes one of solid wood, compressed wood, and particle board.

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50. (previously presented) A composite-coated structural wood construction product according to claim 42, wherein the substrate is treated with a protecting agent.

Claims 51-52. (canceled)

53. (new) A method of making a composite-coated structural wood construction product, the method comprising:

providing a lumber substrate;

extruding a foamed intermediate composite layer on a surface of the substrate; and

extruding an outer composite layer on the intermediate composite layer, so as to provide the outer composite layer with an exterior surface substantially the same as an exterior surface of a non-structural plastic composite,

wherein each of the outer and intermediate composite layers includes a polymer and an organic filler, wherein the organic filler is at least one of saw dust, wood flour, wood fibers, by-products of paper manufacturing, and recycled cellulose, and wherein a combination of all organic fillers is substantially between 20% and 80% by weight of the outer composite layer.

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54. (new) A method according to claim 53, wherein the combination of all organic fillers provided in the outer composite layer is between 30% and 60% by weight.

55. (new) A method according to claim 53, wherein the foamed composite layer is provided with substantially between 5% and 80% less weight than an unfoamed composite layer with substantially the same volume as the foamed composite layer.

56. (new) A method according to claim 53, wherein the foamed composite layer is provided with substantially between 10% and 50% less weight than an unfoamed composite layer with substantially the same volume as the foamed composite layer.

57. (new) A method according to claim 53, wherein the outer composite layer is provided with a biocide.

58. (new) A method according to claim 53, wherein the substrate provided includes one of solid wood, compressed wood, and particle board.

59. (new) A method according to claim 53, wherein the substrate is treated with a protecting agent.

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60. (new) A composite-coated structural wood construction product comprising:

- a lumber substrate;
- an intermediate layer providing a tight, form-fitting coat over the lumber substrate; and
- an outer layer coating the intermediate layer,

wherein one of the outer and intermediate layers is a composite including a polymer and an organic filler,

wherein the organic filler is at least one of saw dust, wood flour, wood fibers, by-products of paper manufacturing, and recycled cellulose,

wherein a combination of all organic fillers is substantially between 20% and 80% by weight of the composite layer,

wherein the intermediate layer is foamed, and

wherein the intermediate and outer layers are extruded.